

# 2009 MONTANA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

## RISK BEHAVIORS OF MONTANA YOUTH INVOLVED WITH ALCOHOL



HEALTH ENHANCEMENT AND SAFETY DIVISION  
NOVEMBER 2009



[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

## **2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Risk Behaviors of Current Drinkers vs. Current Nondrinkers Montana High School Students**

### **Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

The Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is administered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction every two years to students in grades 7 through 12. The purpose of the survey is to help monitor the prevalence of behaviors that not only influence youth health, but also put youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems that can occur during adolescence. While all schools in Montana can participate in the survey on a volunteer basis, approximately 50 high schools are randomly selected to be included to provide the Montana statewide data to be used in other national YRBS reports.

The 2009 YRBS was conducted in February of 2009. Schools administering the survey were provided with detailed written instructions on conducting a random survey in their schools. To encourage accurate responses to sensitive questions, a strict protocol was implemented to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all participating students. The questionnaire is designed without skip patterns to ensure survey completion by students in a similar period of time.

### **Survey Validity, Limitations and Results**

Data used in this report from the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey are based on a random survey of Montana high school students. The weighted results contained in this report can be used to make inferences about the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in grades 9 through 12 in all schools in Montana. However, users should be careful in using the data since respondents in self-reported surveys may have a tendency to underreport behaviors that are socially undesirable, unhealthy, or illegal (alcohol consumption, drug use, seat belt nonuse, etc.) and overreport behaviors that are socially desirable (amount of exercise, etc.).

For the purpose of this report, 'drinkers' are defined as 'current drinkers', or those youth who answered "one or more days" to the question, "*During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?*" Eighteen separate risk behaviors were queried for association with the drinking risk behavior. These risk behaviors are listed in bullet, table and graph forms in the following report.

**2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey  
Risk Behaviors of Current Drinkers vs. Current Nondrinkers  
Montana High School Students**

- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to never or rarely wear a seat belt when riding in a car (20% of current drinkers vs. 7% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to never or rarely wear a seat belt when driving a car (24% of current drinkers vs. 7% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (53% of current drinkers vs. 10% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have been in a physical fight during the past 12 months (43% of current drinkers vs. 20% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have been hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months (14% of current drinkers vs. 6% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse (13% of current drinkers vs. 6% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months (34% of current drinkers vs. 21% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have attempted suicide during the past 12 months (10% of current drinkers vs. 5% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days (37% of current drinkers vs. 5% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip during the past 30 days (26% of current drinkers vs. 5% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have used marijuana in their lifetime (72% of current drinkers vs. 19% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have used methamphetamines in their lifetime (5% of current drinkers vs. 1% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (52% of current drinkers vs. 17% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have had sexual intercourse with four or more people in their lifetime (28% of current drinkers vs. 6% of current nondrinkers).

- Montana youth who currently drink are as likely as current nondrinkers to have been physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on five or more of the past seven days (42% of current drinkers vs. 50% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are as likely as current nondrinkers to have played on a sports team during the past 12 months (56% of current drinkers vs. 60% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are more likely than current nondrinkers to have ever been electronically bullied, such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or text messaging during the past 12 months (21% of current drinkers vs. 15% of current nondrinkers).
- Montana youth who currently drink are as likely as current nondrinkers to have eaten fruits and vegetables five or more times per day during the past seven days (17% of current drinkers vs. 19% of current nondrinkers).



**2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey**  
**Risk Behaviors of Current Drinkers vs. Current Nondrinkers**  
**Montana High School Students**  
 (Percentage of students)

Health Risk Behavior	Current Drinkers	Current Nondrinkers
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	<b>20.0%</b> (16.2-23.8)	<b>6.7%</b> (4.1-9.3)
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving a car	<b>23.5%</b> (18.0-28.9)	<b>6.7%</b> (4.3-9.0)
Rode one or more times during the past 30 days in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol	<b>52.8%</b> (47.6-58.0)	<b>9.5%</b> (7.1-11.8)
Were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	<b>43.4%</b> (37.0-49.8)	<b>20.1%</b> (16.9-23.3)
Were ever hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months	<b>14.2%</b> (11.2-17.2)	<b>5.5%</b> (3.9-7.2)
Had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	<b>12.9%</b> (10.4-15.5)	<b>5.7%</b> (4.4-7.1)
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months	<b>34.0%</b> (29.4-38.5)	<b>21.1%</b> (18.0-24.2)
Actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	<b>9.9%</b> (7.1-12.7)	<b>5.1%</b> (3.4-6.7)
Smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days	<b>36.8%</b> (29.9-43.8)	<b>4.7%</b> (2.6-6.8)
Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days	<b>26.2%</b> (20.4-31.9)	<b>5.3%</b> (2.7-7.9)
Used marijuana one or more times during their life	<b>71.6%</b> (65.7-77.4)	<b>19.1%</b> (15.5-22.8)
Used methamphetamines one or more times during their life	<b>4.9%</b> (2.6-7.2)	<b>0.5%</b> (0.0-0.9)
Had sexual intercourse with one or more people during the past three months	<b>52.0%</b> (47.3-56.7)	<b>16.7%</b> (13.5-19.8)
Had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their life	<b>27.5%</b> (22.5-32.5)	<b>6.3%</b> (4.3-8.4)
Physically active for at least 60 minutes/day on five or more of the past seven days	<b>41.8%</b> (36.5-47.2)	<b>49.6%</b> (45.3-53.9)
Played on one or more sports teams during the past 12 months	<b>55.8%</b> (49.3-62.2)	<b>59.8%</b> (54.9-64.7)
Had ever been electronically bullied, such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or text messaging during the past 12 months	<b>20.9%</b> (17.5-24.4)	<b>15.1%</b> (12.7-17.5)
Ate fruits and vegetables five or more times per day during the past seven days	<b>17.4%</b> (13.2-21.6)	<b>18.5%</b> (15.2-21.9)

## 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Risk Behaviors of Current Drinkers vs. Current Nondrinkers Montana High School Students

### Percentage of students by selected risk behavior

